

## OPINION 1081

ADDITION OF FAMILY-GROUP NAMES BASED ON *ALCA* (AVES) AND *ALCES* (MAMMALIA) TO THE OFFICIAL LIST OF FAMILY-GROUP NAMES IN ZOOLOGY

RULING.- (1) The following names are hereby added to the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) ALCIDAE (ex Alcadae) Anon., 1820, type-genus *Alca* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Aves) (Name Number 486);
- (b) ALCEIDAE (ex Alcedae) Brookes, 1828, type-genus *Alces* Gray, 1821 (Class Mammalia) (Name Number 487).

## HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 2011

An application for the resolution of the homonymy between two family-group names - one for the auks and the other for the elks - was received from Dr G.N. Kashin (*Moscow*) on 26 June 1972. After considerable correspondence aimed at establishing the authorship of ALCIDAE in Birds, the application was sent to the printer on 27 August 1974 and published on 13 January 1975 in Vol. 31 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, p. 215. No use of the plenary powers was involved.

Professor Ernst Mayr commented that it was absurd to propose a family name for the elks, though some authors had recognised a tribe for that genus.

## DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 22 September 1976 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (76) 19 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. Zool. Nomencl.* vol. 31: 215. At the close of the Voting Period on 22 December 1976 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes - eighteen (18) received in the following order: Melville, Eisenmann, Holthuis, Vokes, Willink, Lemche, (for ALCIDAE (Aves) only) Brinck, Ride, Mroczkowski, Bayer, Binder, Corliss, Starobogatov, Welch, Dupuis, Nye, Kraus, Bernardi

Negative Votes - Rohdendorf, Tortonese, Habe

Abstention - Sabrosky.

Voting Paper not returned - Heppell. A late affirmative vote was returned by Dr Alvarado.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission with their Voting Papers:

*Eisenmann*: Although it is unlikely that a family, or even a subfamily, would be recognised for the elks (Mammalia), the nomenclatural conflict with ALCIDAE universally used for the auks

(Aves) exists. It should be removed.

*Lemche*: There is no name competition if ALCIDAE is kept for the birds.

*Rohdendorf*: I agree completely with Dr Mayr's view of Dr Kashin's proposals. Furthermore, the problem of the construction of words to make names is not the business of the Commission.

*Tortonese*: This case does not concern mammals, as a family ALCEIDAE cannot be accepted.

*Habe*: In voting against I object to placing ALCEIDAE on the Official List.

*Corliss*: Even if only for use as a synonym, ALCEIDAE should be available, it seems to me.

*Sabrosky*: This vote should be delayed until there is a decision on the status of Brookes (1828), see my comments on V.P. (76)16 [see Opinion 1080].

*Dupuis*: ALCEINAE or ALCEINA (subfamily or tribal level) seems perhaps better than a family-name.

*Kraus*: Formally the Commission has to act in this case. But as there is no family-name for the elks (*Alces*) in common usage, it seems difficult to understand the reasons for an action by the Commission at the present time. It would be easy to find a lot of similar cases in the literature, but they often do not cause any problems.

*Bernardi*: Il me semble qu'il est utile de fixer l'orthographe de ALCEIDAE pour en faire dériver le nom d'une tribu, même si ALCEIDAE est sans usage en tant que famille.

### ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for names placed on an Official List by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

ALCEIDAE (ex Alcedae) Brookes, 1828, *Catalogue of the anatomical and zoological collection of Joshua Brookes*, Part 1: 62

ALCIDAE (ex Alcadae) Anon., 1820, *Synopsis contents Brit. Mus.*, 17th ed., 68.

### CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (76) 19 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1081.

R.V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

23 February 1977